

THE CHINA MAIL.

The delivery of the French Mail was begun at 9.30 a.m.

The mail is endeavouring to start another paper, a daily.

The U.S.S. *Petrel* is under orders to leave Hankow on 10th instant for Shanghai.

The *New York Daily News* of the 2nd inst. says:—The *Kiukiang*, which arrived here yesterday from Swatow, lost one of her propellers early yesterday morning, off Bohai.

The *Finsbury*, whilst on a voyage between Zanzibar and Singapore, on the 21st inst. sprang a leak in the main hold. She reached Singapore on the 24th inst., when she reported 4ft. 6in. of water in her hold.

As the Admiralty case in connection with the *Cambod-Diamond* collision, the application of Mr. Nanson on behalf of the owners of the latter vessel, for leave to appeal against the decision of Mr. Justice Wood, the Chief Justice, has been refused.

The *Shanghai Mercury* hears, that an Austrian firm has secured a large contract for revelling guns for one of the North-east forts, the amount involved being stated at £200,000, which we are rather inclined to read as facts.

The steamers *Sphynx* and *Rapchyma*, which have been purchased by the Chinese coasting trade, have been renamed *Peking* and *Wenping*. The *Dixie Orientalist* left Liverpool on the 21st inst. will leave Hamburg for China in the course of the present month. The former will be commanded on the coast by Captain F. Schulte, late commander of the s.s. *Pekin*, and the latter by Captain Kishler, at present in command of the same company's s.s. *Ningpo*.

The marriage of Mr. W. N. Beauchier, First Secretary of H.B.M.'s Legation, Peking, and Miss Hart, daughter of the Inspector-General of Customs, is fixed, says the *Mercury*, for the 5th inst. The invitations for the ceremony, which is to be followed by a garden party in the beautiful ground of the Hankow Head-quarters, have been sent out for nearly a month. The happy couple will spend their honeymoon in the Western Hills.

According to the *Shia chieh Mercury*, the reason Sir John Walsham and his family have not removed to the Western Hills as usual this year, is because of the refusal of the Chinese to let him have the temple there which he has been accustomed to rent for years past. It is reserved now for the President of the Grand Secretariat, who is moving out with all his summer paraphernalia, and it is expected that the Empress Dowager will pay him a visit. The old lady is getting tired of being mewed up in the palace and wants to see the world outside again.

We are informed upon excellent authority that the failure of the English Committee to have the Audience carried out again this year is due to the action and want of co-operation of the Russian Minister to Peking, who has already succeeded in placing many of the residents of the classic and somewhat region of Legation street at loggerheads, and in generally speaking, turning the diplomatic world upside down. He is a good minister for Russia but is scarcely a personal protégé with the Corps Diplomatique.—*Mercy*.

He's in the Asylum now! says the *Singapore Free Press* of the 20th ult. Cabon, the Sailor's Bone fastening man, is removed to the Asylum or hospital after the various miseries which he has suffered having at length closed up. Although he complained bitterly to the officers regarding his quarters that they were on crooking on the right of a Briton to do as he liked, he had no desire to leave his bed and seek other quarters. He is still, however, said to cherish the same antipathy towards his food, and the doctors are having to adopt extraordinary measures.

We understand from the secretary of the K. R. & A. C. S. that the *Yedo Nippon*, an invitation has been received to the Coming-of-Age Regatta to be held at Yokohama at the end of October. The open event will be the four-cared, pair-sailed, and single and double scull races. Invitations have all been extended to Shanghai, Hangchow, and Nagasaki. Whether the challenge will be accepted remains to be seen, but, the K. R. & A. C. will send a contingent, and we trust it will be one that will bring credit to the port.

YESTERDAY afternoon, says the *Japan Mail*, Aug. 26, at 4 o'clock, the Yokohama Printing and Publishing Company held the extraordinary meeting which had been advertised for some time. Newspaper reporters were not allowed to be present, as was very natural, for the Company is in no wise bound to lay its affairs before rival journals which have shown a disposition to criticize it in a very biased manner. We shall therefore respect this desire for privacy by limiting ourselves to a statement that the proposal to go into voluntary liquidation was adopted; that the liquidator was appointed, and that anticipations as to the demise of the *Japan Gazette* are not likely to be realized.

The following appears in the Singapore papers of Aug. 27.—Messrs. Becher, Morris & Co. send us the following information just received from Kuala Lipis by telegram:—At the Petron Mine, which is working under great stress of difficulties at present, an unfortunate accident has happened to the main pumping engine, a piston having broken and having to be sent to Singapore for repair. Thanks to the engineering resources of the Staff, however, no serious stoppage has occurred in the work, which is reported to be going on all right and everything satisfactory. It is feared that the grade of ore this month is not quite so good as it has been lately and that the yield of gold will therefore be somewhat below the average.

The Gazette contains a proclamation by the Queen expressing "Our Royal Desire to reward the long meritorious service of officers of proved capacity in our Volunteer Forces," and creating a new decoration specially for that purpose. It is to be styled "The Volunteer Officers' Decoration," and will consist of an oak wreath in silver and gold, having in the centre the Royal cipher and crown in gold. It will be worn suspended from the left breast by a green ribbon, an inch and a half in width, from a silver oak bar brooch. Every commissioned officer of twenty years' service in the Volunteer Force is eligible for the distinction, if he must be recommended by the commanding officer of the corps in which he has served, and duly certified by the district military authorities as having been an efficient and thoroughly capable officer. Half of any time which he may have served in the ranks will count as qualifying service towards the twenty years required. The decoration may also be worn by the Sovereign and Princesses of the Royal family of Great Britain and Ireland.

A VACANCY in the post of Netherlands Consul in South China, says the *China Mail*, has led the Planters' Committee in Dali to nominalise the Home Government to fill the appointment with a Consul who knows the Chinese language. The lack of a knowledge of the latter has proved such a drawback that the previous Consul had set to work to learn Chinese. The Committee also would fain see a Consul appointed acquainted with the situation in Dali and thus able to enlighten the official classes in that section of China as the situation in the latter. From there direct appeals to the Chinese Government, and officials in that quarter, will put questions about Dali held to answer save by experts. The reliable information about emigration matters has proved difficult to get except through a Consul posted in the Cantonese dialect. Stress is also laid on the advantage arising from a Consul being available without an interpreter to deal directly with underlings who, in the recruiting of immigrants, are more to be feared than the higher officials.

The Russian newspapers are forbidden, under severe penalties, to publish any but official information regarding the conflict, and no account has yet been printed at St. Petersburg of the very serious riot which occurred on the 6th ult. at Tashkent, the capital of Russian Turkestan. Private letters which have arrived furnish a full report of the drama. Some five thousand of the Saris, who inhabit the native quarter of Tashkent, suddenly broke forth into the Russian quarter, and following evidently a preconcerted plan attacked the house of Colonel Poniatowski, whose office is equivalent to that of a Deputy Governor. Forcing their way in, the wild Saris broke down doors, smashed windows, destroyed the furniture, burned all the papers they could find, and made a complete wreck of the interior. Meanwhile another party of the rioters were pelting the Governor's carriage with stones. They were preparing for fresh excesses, when at this moment a detachment of troops arrived on the scene and immediately opened fire on the Saris. The latter, who were armed with pistol, dagger, and sticks, were by no means intimidated by the sight of several hundred men, and fought on. In the course of their massacre of the rioters, they fired at the first volley, and, as far as possible, returned fire. The Saris were put to flight. The hottest fighting took place in the neighbourhood of the various mosques, which were converted into temporary forts by the rioters, who fired at and hurled stones upon the soldiers from every loophole. The loss of life was very great. On the Russian side five persons were killed and about 100 wounded.

The following items are from the London and *China Express*:

The following appointment has been made at the Admiralty:—Captain W. U. Moore, to the *Penquin*, to date June 30. Captain Moore has been reappointed on his promotion.

The Admiralty have definitely decided to convert the composite ship *Wanderer*, 4,923 tons, 700-horse power, into a sailing vessel as a training ship for boys. An order has been received at Sheerness Dockyard directing the work to be immediately taken in hand at an estimated cost of £6,600. The sloop has been thoroughly surveyed and found in a sound condition. She is of comparatively modern construction, having only been built in 1883 by Messrs. Dixon, at Middlesbrough-on-Tees, at a cost of £24,232. She has served well as a training ship, and has been used for the commissioning of the *Wanderer*—we are told, and two in broach-order, to be removed, and a light equipment of four 3-pounder guns and a 7-pounder gun mounted in its place. She is to be completed as early as possible, as the Admiralty require accommodation for the 1,292 additional boys to be entered this year.

A Portmouth correspondent states that there is every probability that the difficulty in connection with the leakage of boilers in the Royal Navy, which has so long and so sorely perplexed the ship's officers and Admiralty officials, is at an end. To a large number of battleships and first-class cruisers, a new type of boiler, double-ended, had been introduced, but so serious had been the leakage that after many devices had proven ineffectual in stopping the same, it would not be necessary to remove the boilers and supply some of another design. The remedy which has been supplied is extremely simple but has proved most effective—a suggestion, it is believed, by Mr. Orton, of the Admiralty. It is in the form of a mushroom-headed ferule, which is inserted in the fire-box end of the tube. Being recessed it gives between the fitting part of the ferule, and the end of the tube an air space of 1/8 inch. The mushroom head of the ferule covers the end of the tube, and to a large extent prevents the tube plate from overheating. Having been fitted with this appliance, the *Wanderer* was sent for a run to Madeira and back, that it might be crucially tested at sea. Nothing could be more gratifying than the result. The outward passage was made in four days, and the homeward run in only four hours, so under. During the passage the weather was fair, and the wind blowing smoothly, and an average of thirteen knots an hour was maintained. As to leakage from the boiler there was no sign of which a particle of complaint could be made, and it is expected that the ferules will be at once applied to all the ships in which leakage has prevailed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

V. VOLUNTEERING IN HONGKONG: MR FRANCIS AND HIS FIGURES.

To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL.'

Hongkong, Sept. 6.

SIR.—Allow me to correct his figures on one or two points, and the 3rd Volunteer scheme. In his letter which appeared in your paper of last week he states:—"Of the grants for Volunteer purposes made for the years 1887 to 1891 some \$5,000 have not been expended at all, and there is still some \$1,000 in hand of the Volunteer grant for this year." Now there is no such sum as \$5,000 to the credit of the Volunteer Corps. A sum is annually voted, and any surplus at the end of each season is not carried forward to the next year. It simply lapses. With regard to the existing grant of £12,000, this amount was voted at the request of H. E. Major-General Barker when Administering the Government, and this particular sum was intended to cover the expenses of the new corps or the reorganization of the present one, a sum quite sufficient for all purposes, seeing 80 men cost only about £1,500 to £1,800.—Yours faithfully,

VERITAS.

To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL.'

Hongkong, Sept. 6.

SIR.—I see in a letter by Mr. J. Francis, Q.C., which appears in the *Mail* of last night, that he makes the following statement:—"Compare this (the Volunteer Grant suggested by the Commission) with the present grant of \$12,000 per annum, for maintaining the present corps of barely 100 members." &c. Now this is quite

misleading. The naval vote of \$5,000 was increased to \$12,000 this year to include the new scheme. —I am, yours, &c.

O. K.

BIG GUNS v. SMALL GUNS.

To the Editor of the 'CHINA MAIL.'

Hongkong, Sept. 6.

SIR.—In a *Daily Press* leader of the 5th inst. appears this statement: "The volunteers can never be a body separate from the regulars of the army, more complicated in the force necessary to render them efficient to serve in those defenses." No reason is given for saying so, and I am sure, with the exception of the members of the present Corps, no civilian has ever been inside of our modern forts to make notes to justify such an assertion. As a fact, we have the knowledge; we do know how to fix up the 9ft and 10ft guns and work them and carry on practice both at moving and fixed target. In the same paper's issue of to-day also appears an extract from the *Times* of India relative to Volunteers at Aden, and I read with simple astonishment: "Besides this, the 6ft and 10ft guns now in the garrison, even though not in full working order, are still available for defense purposes, one of 345 members including the Guards Corps, of which 205 could be absolutely depended upon."

[The Commission assumes that the existing garrison, even including the new Indian Regiment, is not sufficient for the defense of the Colony, and that in case of war it would be necessary to send out to defend the coast of India a force of 10,000 men, including 1,000 Artillery.] If this could be got out, it is evident that the 6ft and 10ft guns now in the garrison, even though not in full working order, are still available for defense purposes, one of 345 members including the Guards Corps, of which 205 could be absolutely depended upon.]

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THE CHINA MAIL.

[No. 9234. SEPTEMBER 6, 1892.]

Mails.

NOTICE.
COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

PAQUEBOTS POSTE FRANCAIS.
STEAM FOR
SAIGON, SINGAPORE, BATAVIA,
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Cargo and Specie will be registered for London, as well as for Marseilles, and accepted in transit through Marseilles for the principal places of Europe.

Shipping Orders will be granted till Noon.

Cargo will be received on board until 4 p.m., Specie and Parcels until 3 p.m., on the 6th September, 1892. (Parcels are not to be sent on board; they must be left at the Agency's Office.)

Contents and value of Packages are required.

For further particulars, apply at the Company's Office.

G. DE OHAMPEAUX,
Agent.

Hongkong, September 6, 1892. 1466

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THE U. S. Mail Steamship JERU will be despatched for SAN FRANCISCO, via YOKOHAMA, on FRIDAY, the 9th September, at Daylight, taking Passengers and Freight for Japan, the United States, and Europe.

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Time is reckoned from date of issue to date of re-embarkation at San Francisco.

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Passenger Involved to accompany Cargo destined to points beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Office, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.

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Hongkong, September 1, 1892. 1490

JUST PUBLISHED—Price, 50 Cents.

MISISON ETIANGERES
History of the Churches of India, Burmah, Siam, China, Japan, &c., &c., &c.

TRANSLATED BY
E. H. PARKER, Esq.,
H. B. M.'s Consular Service.

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NOTICE.

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Address to JOHN C. THOMSON,
Hon. Sec. to the College.

Hongkong, February 25, 1891.

CONTENTS:

The Yang-tse Gorges and Rapids in Hu-pe.
The Rapids of the Upper Yang-tse.

The Wade-meadow of the Traveller
through the Gorges of the Great River.

Special Observations.

A Journey in North Shu-ch'uan.

Man-ch'ien and the Kung-tung River.

Up the Ki-ling River.

The Great Salt Walks.

North Kwai-ho.

The Wolds in Hu-pe.

Sz Chuan Plants.

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Hongkong, August 26, 1892. 1478

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PROPOSED SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.—TUESDAY, Sept. 20. Gaudi, v. Honolulu. TUESDAY, Oct. 11. Belge.

THE Steamship OCEANIC will be
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Yokohama, on TUESDAY, the 20th
September, at 1 p.m., connection being
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Shanghai and Japan Ports.

RATES OF PASSAGE.

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12 months \$393.75

Time is reckoned from date of issue to date of re-embarkation at San Francisco.

Passenger, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (or vice versa) within one year will be allowed a discount of 10% from Return Fare. This allowance does not apply to through fares from China and Japan to other countries.

Passenger Involved to accompany Cargo destined to points beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Office, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.

For further information as to Freight or Passage, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 72, Queen's Road Central, J. S. VAN BUREN, Agent.

Hongkong,